

**HEALTH**  
**A 11-DEC 1943**  
**37**  
**BRIERLEY HILL**

**URBAN**

**DISTRICT COUNCIL.**



# **REPORT**

on the Work of the

## **PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

for 1942.

**NORMAN V. HEPPLER,**  
Medical Officer of Health.

**H. J. PARKER,**  
Chief Sanitary Inspector.



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## **BRIERLEY HILL URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.**

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*Chairman of the Council :*

Councillor S. WOOD, J.P..

*Vice-Chairman :*

Councillor H. HADEN.

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## **PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE.**

*Chairman :*

Councillor T. WILLIAMS, M.B.E.

*Vice-Chairman :*

Councillor W. BACHE.

All Members of the Council are Members of this  
Committee.

## BRIERLEY HILL URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

### PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

#### *Medical Officer of Health :*

\*N. V. HEPPLER, M.D., B.S., B.Hy., D.P.H.  
(Also Assistant County Medical Officer of Health for Staffordshire  
and Medical Superintendent, West Midlands Joint Hospital Board).

#### *Chief Sanitary Inspector and Cleansing Superintendent :*

\*H. J. PARKER, M.S.I.A., Cert. R.S.I., Cert. Meat and Foods  
Inspector.

#### *Additional Sanitary Inspectors :*

\*J. W. BILLINGHAM, M.S.I.A., Cert. S.I.B., Cert. Meat and Foods  
Inspector.

\*W. H. BOWMAN, A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A., Cert. S.I.B., Cert. Meat  
and Foods Inspector.

\*C. H. CRAWFORD, M.S.I.A., Cert. S.I.B., Cert. Meat and Foods  
Inspector. (Resigned 31/4/43).

#### *Veterinary Inspectors :*

D. J. ANTHONY, M.R.C.V.S., D.V.S.M.  
D. HOWIE, M.R.C.V.S., D.V.S.M.

#### *Bacteriologist :*

Dr. J. L. EDWARDS  
Bacteriological Laboratory, County Buildings, Stafford.

#### *Analyst :*

E. V. JONES, Esq., County Buildings, Stafford.

#### *Tuberculosis Officer :*

Dr. D. J. LOUGHRAN  
Tuberculosis Dispensary, Parsons Street, Dudley.

#### *Clerical Staff :*

†N. BELLAMY  
C. I. SOUTHALL, Housing Visitor.  
J. M. HALL D. A. WARNER  
A. E. SILCOX B. D. COMPSON  
B. M. YEARSLEY

\*Salary Contributions made by Exchequer Grants.

†H.M. Forces.

# ANNUAL REPORT

*of the*

## MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

For the Year ending 31st December, 1942.

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TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE URBAN  
DISTRICT COUNCIL OF BRIERLEY HILL.

Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Hodgetts, and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my fifth Annual Report on the work of your Public Health Department. The Report is on similar lines to the previous one, only essential information being given.

The increase in the birth rate is most gratifying. As the proportion of older people in the population is increasing each year, it is to be hoped that the rate will continue to rise, in order to counter-balance this tendency. Not only are more children being born, but more of them are surviving the dangers of the first year of life. A factor which has undoubtedly contributed to this happy state of affairs is the priority treatment given to children and expectant and nursing mothers by the Ministry of Food. A large number of mothers and babies still do not bother to get the vitamin concentrates to which they are entitled. This is a pity, for these substances are a remarkably cheap insurance against ill health due to dietary deficiency.

The death rate is slightly less than that for 1941, and also compares favourably with that of the country as a whole. There has been a good deal of whooping cough during the year, but no other major epidemic of infectious disease.

A noteworthy feature has been the reduction in the number of cases of diphtheria, from which there was one death during the year. There are still far too many unprotected children in the town, and everything possible is being done to diminish their number. There has been a certain amount of anti-vaccination and anti-immunisation propaganda in the town. It is a pity that these misguided people can still get paper for their attempts to sabotage the health of the community.

All forms of tuberculosis have again shown an increase. This is part of the price the country is paying for the intense industrial activity which is so essential for victory.

During the year the Department lost by death in action, L. J. Partridge, who was serving in the R.A.F. His loss is felt keenly by all who knew him, and we honour the memory of a very gallant gentleman.

It is my pleasant duty to thank the Chairman and Members of the Council, the Clerk and other Officers, and the Staff of the Department for their unvarying kindness and helpfulness.

I have the honour to be

Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Hodgetts and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

N. V. HEPPLE,

*Medical Officer of Health.*



**SECTION A.****Statistics.**

Area (in acres) .. .. .	5.932
Rateable value (1st April, 1942) .. .. .	£173,020
Sum represented by a Penny Rate, 1942—43 .. .. .	£630

**SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.**

Figures which were kindly supplied by the Manager of the local Employment Exchange show that there is now practically no unemployment in the area.

**EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1942.**

<b>Live Births.</b>			<b>Total</b>	<b>Males</b>	<b>Females</b>
Legitimate .. .. .			846	448	398
Illegitimate .. .. .			14	5	9
<b>Total .. .. .</b>			<u>860</u>	<u>453</u>	<u>407</u>

Birth Rate per 1,000 of estimated population : 19.17.

**Still Births.**

			<b>Total</b>	<b>Males</b>	<b>Females</b>
Legitimate .. .. .			22	14	8
Illegitimate .. .. .			1	—	1
<b>Total .. .. .</b>			<u>23</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>9</u>

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births : 26.04.

**Deaths.**

<b>Total</b>	<b>Males</b>	<b>Females</b>
483	261	222

Death Rate per 1,000 of estimated population : 10.76.

Owing to various causes it is not possible to give a comparability factor this year. The Death Rate is therefore unadjusted.

**Deaths from Puerperal Causes.**

			<b>Deaths</b>	<b>Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) Births</b>
Puerperal Sepsis ... .. .	...	...	1	1.13
Other Maternal causes ... .. .	...	...	4	4.53
			<u>5</u>	<u>5.66</u>

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age :—

All Infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	50.00
Legitimate infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	47.67
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate births	...	...	142.85
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	0
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	2
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	...	2
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	69

## NOTES ON VITAL STATISTICS.

### Births.

The Birth Rate of 19.17 per 1,000 population is above the average of 15.8 for England and Wales, and compares with a rate of 15.99 for 1941. This is the biggest increase for some years.

### Deaths.

The Death Rate of 10.76 for the area compares with 11.95 for 1941, and 11.6 for the country as a whole. The chief causes of death were Heart Disease, Cancer, Intra-cranial Vascular Lesions and Bronchitis, which together caused more than half the total deaths.

### Natural Increase of Population.

The number of births exceeded the number of deaths by 377.

### Infantile Mortality.

The infantile mortality rate of 50.00 per 1,000 live births is less than the previous year, 53.64. The infantile mortality rate for the country as a whole is 49.00.

### Maternal Mortality.

The total rate of 5.66 per 1,000 total births compares with a rate of 2.01 for the country as a whole. The maternal mortality rate from puerperal infection was 1.13.

CAUSES OF DEATH.  
REGISTRAR-GENERAL'S RETURN.

TABLE I.

Diseases.	1942		
	Male.	Female.	Total.
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers ...	—	—	—
Cerebro-Spinal Fever ... ..	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever ... ..	—	—	—
Whooping Cough ... ..	1	1	2
Diphtheria ... ..	1	—	1
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System ...	19	11	30
Other Forms of Tuberculosis ... ..	4	3	7
Syphilitic Diseases ... ..	2	—	2
Influenza ... ..	4	4	8
Measles ... ..	—	—	—
Acute Polio-Myelitis and Polio-Encephalitis	—	—	—
Acute Infective Encephalitis ... ..	—	—	—
Cancer of Buccal Cavity and Oesophagus (M)			
and Uterus (F) ... ..	3	4	7
Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum ...	6	4	10
Cancer of Breast ... ..	—	5	5
Cancer of all other sites... ..	35	12	47
Diabetes ... ..	3	2	5
Intra-cranial Vascular Lesions' ... ..	20	30	50
Heart Disease ... ..	45	37	82
Other Diseases of Circulatory System ...	7	8	15
Bronchitis ... ..	23	20	43
Pneumonia ... ..	16	9	25
Other Respiratory Diseases ... ..	1	4	5
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum ... ..	—	—	—
Diarrhoea (under 2 years) ... ..	—	2	2
Appendicitis ... ..	2	2	4
Other Digestive Disorders ... ..	5	6	11
Nephritis ... ..	6	3	9
Puerperal and Post-abortion Sepsis ...	—	1	1
Other Maternal Causes ... ..	—	4	4
Premature Birth ... ..	10	6	16
Congenital Malformation, Birth Injury,			
Infantile Disorders ... ..	5	7	12
Suicide ... ..	1	1	2
Road Traffic Accidents ... ..	3	1	4
Other Violent Causes ... ..	15	2	17
All Other Causes ... ..	24	33	57
	261	222	483

Birth Rates, Civilian Death Rates, Analysis of Mortality, Maternal Mortality and Case Rates for certain Infectious Diseases in the year 1942.

TABLE II.

	England and Wales	126 County Boroughs and Great Towns including London	148 Smaller Towns Resident Popula- tions 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census	London Admin'tve County	Brierley Hill
Births—	Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population.				
Live ...	15.8	17.3	18.4	14.0	19.17
Still ...	0.54	0.66	0.62	0.48	0.51
Deaths—					
All Causes ...	11.6	13.3	12.1	13.9	10.76
Typhoid and Paratyphoid ...	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Scarlet Fever ...	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Whooping Cough ...	0.02	0.03	0.02	0.04	0.04
Diphtheria ...	0.05	0.06	0.04	0.02	0.02
Influenza ...	0.09	0.09	0.10	0.07	0.17
Small-Pox ...	—	—	—	—	—
Measles ...	0.01	0.02	0.01	0.01	0.00
Deaths under 1 year of age ...	49	59	46	60	50
Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis under 2 years of age ...	5.2	7.5	4.8	8.6	2.3
Notifications—	Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population.				
Typhoid Fever ...	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.02	—
Paratyphoid Fever ...	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	—
Cerebro-Spinal Fever ...	0.14	0.17	0.12	0.15	—
Scarlet Fever ...	2.19	2.49	2.34	0.86	1.33
Whooping Cough ...	1.73	1.97	1.58	2.72	3.14
Diphtheria ...	1.05	1.35	0.91	0.76	1.27
Erysipelas ...	0.30	0.36	0.26	0.43	0.51
Small-Pox ...	0.00	0.00	—	0.00	—
Measles ...	7.46	9.27	7.39	8.62	1.71
Pneumonia ...	1.07	1.30	0.94	0.94	0.78
Maternal Mortality— (excluding Abortion)	Rates per 1,000 Total Births (Live and Still).				
Puerperal Infection No. 147	0.42	} Not available			1.13
Others ...	1.59				4.53
Total ...	2.01				5.66
Notifications—					
Puerperal Fever ...	12.61	15.94	10.80	3.10	} 11.32
Puerperal Pyrexia				17.69 including Puerperal Fever.	

## **SECTION B.**

### **GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.**

#### **Public Officers of the Local Authority.**

Changes in staff are referred to briefly on page 4.

#### **Laboratory Facilities.**

Pathological and bacteriological specimens are sent to the County Laboratory at Stafford. No charge is made by this Laboratory for the examination of these specimens.

Advantage is taken of these facilities by the general practitioners of the town and by this Department.

#### **Ambulance Facilities.**

The Ambulance Service is run in conjunction with the Civil Defence Ambulance Service. One ambulance and one car are provided by the Local Authority.

During the year the following work was carried out :—

Mileage	...	...	...	19,708
Accidents	...	...	...	54
Emergency calls...	...	...	...	355
Non-emergency calls	...	...	...	957
Treatment cases...	...	...	...	994

It will be seen from these figures that the work is increased from the previous year. The provision of a car has released the ambulance to some extent in dealing with walking cases. The service undoubtedly meets a great public need in the area.

#### **Post Mortem Room.**

13 bodies were brought to the Post Mortem Room during the year. In the case of 10 of them death was due to natural causes. 2 were cases of accidental death, and in 1 case death was due to suicide. None was of an infectious nature. The average length of stay was  $3\frac{1}{2}$  days.

#### **Nursing in the Home.**

Five Nursing Associations at present operate in the district.

## Clinics and Treatment Centres.

The following School Clinics, Infant Welfare and Ante-Natal Centres are held in the areas :—

	<b>School Clinics.</b>	<b>Infant Welfare Centre.</b>	<b>Ante-Natal Centre.</b>
	Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday.	Tuesday and Friday.	Thursday,
Brierley Hill : (Church Hill) ...	9—12 noon.	2—5 p.m.	2—5 p.m.
Quarry Bank : (Methodist Buildings, New Street) ...	Wednesday, 9—12 noon.	Wednesday, 2—5 p.m.	Friday (fortnightly) 10—12 noon.
Wordsley : (Methodist Buildings, New Street) ...	Monday, 9—12 noon.	Monday, 2—5 p.m.	— —
Kingswinford : (Methodist Buildings, Moss Grove) ...	Tuesday, 9—12 noon.	Tuesday, 2—5 p.m.	Thursday, 10—12 noon.
Pensnett : (Methodist Schoolrooms)	9—12 noon.	Thursday,	
Brockmoor : (St. John's Schoolrooms)	Friday, 9—12 noon.	Friday, 2—5 p.m.	—

Refraction Clinics and Dental Sessions are held as required at the above Centres.

## HOSPITALS.

Hospitals provided or subsidised by the Local Authority or by the County Council.

### (1) Infectious Diseases.

The area is served by the hospitals of the West Midlands Joint Hospital Board, situated at Kingswinford, Moxley, Bilston and Wombourne.

### (2) Small-Pox Hospital.

This hospital is situated at Moxley and is under the control of a Small-Pox Joint Hospital Board, of which Brierley Hill is a constituent Authority. This hospital has been taken over by the West Midlands Joint Hospital Board as a hospital for infectious diseases, and other arrangements have been made for Small-Pox cases if they occur.



**(3) Sanatoria.**

The male sanatorium is at Prestwood, and the sanatoria for women are at Yarnfield (near Stone), Groundslow and Kinver. Cases of surgical tuberculosis are treated at Standon Hall and The Woodlands, and there is a special sanatorium for children at Himley.

**(4) Orthopaedic.**

The County have provided for the specialist treatment of these cases in special clinics and they are referred to hospital if they require in-patient treatment.

**(5) Wordsley Emergency Hospital.**

This hospital is maintained by the County Council as a Grade I. Emergency Hospital. It takes patients referred by the Public Assistance Committee.

**(6) Other.**

There are no other provided hospitals, but the following general hospitals are within easy reach of the Urban District : —

Corbett Hospital, Amblecote.

Guest Hospital, Dudley.

There are also the hospitals of Birmingham and Wolverhampton, all of which are within easy reach of the district.

**Midwifery and Maternity Services.**

There are 9 registered midwives practising in the area ; 8 of these are whole-time salaried midwives employed by Nursing Associations under arrangements made by the County Council as a result of the Midwives' Act, 1936.

**Maternity and Nursing Homes.**

The maternity block at Wordsley Emergency Hospital, which was closed at the outbreak of war, was re-opened by the County Council with eight beds during the year.

**SECTION C.****SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.****Water Supply.**

Sources of supply are detailed in previous reports. Monthly samples have been taken during the year and the analyses have been uniformly satisfactory.

**Drainage and Sewage Disposal.**

There were no changes of note during the year.

## **Public Cleansing.**

The matter is dealt with in the report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector.

## **SECTION D.**

### **HOUSING.**

Housing work is referred to in the report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector.

## **SECTION E.**

### **INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.**

#### **Meat.**

Inspection was carried out during the year by the Sanitary Inspectors. Details will be found in the reports of the Chief Sanitary Inspector.

The Report of the Chief Veterinary Officer is appended :—

“ I beg to submit the following report on the veterinary meat inspection services at this abattoir during 1942. During the year the total number of animals slaughtered shows a decrease on the figures for the year 1941, but whilst this reduction is most marked in the case of pigs and cattle, there has been an increase in the number of sheep and calves slaughtered.

The number of animals dying in transit and whilst awaiting slaughter, and on whose carcasses post-mortem examinations have been conducted, bears the same ratio to the total number of animals passing through the abattoir as in previous years. The chief cause of these deaths is overcrowding in the waggons. This is especially the case with pigs, as once a fat animal gets down in an overcrowded waggon, it's chances of survival are poor.

The following Tables give particulars of the inspection of slaughtered animals, etc.”



# FRESH MEAT CONDEMNED — PIGS.

15

Diseases	Carcases	Heads	Lungs	Hearts	Livers	Stomachs	Spleens	Kidneys	In- testines	Sundries
Tuberculosis ...	83	5376	3548	3548	3549	1037	506	271	6316	156 Forequarters 4 Hindquarters 4 Flanks
Pleurisy and Pneumonia	2	2	1698	2	2	2	2	4	2	—
Pericarditis ...	—	—	—	802	—	—	—	—	—	—
Endocarditis ...	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cirrhosis ...	—	—	—	—	380	—	—	—	—	—
Hepatitis ...	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
Fatty Infiltration	—	—	—	—	56	—	—	—	—	—
Hydatid Cysts ...	—	—	24	—	212	—	38	—	—	38 Omentums
Cav. Angioma ...	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—
Ascariæ ...	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Peritonitis ...	3	3	3	3	952	277	213	3	308	—
Congestion ...	—	—	200	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteritis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Hydronephrosis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1980	—	—
Nephritis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Pyæmia ...	2	2	2	2	10	2	2	4	2	3 Forequarters 6 Hindquarters 5 Forequarters
Empyæmia ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid ...	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	4	2	—
Actinomycosis ...	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Fractures ...	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Swine Erysipelas	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	10	5	2 Forequarters
Gangrene ...	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	—
Decomposition	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	2 Forequarters
Septicæmia ...	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	—
Dead in Lairage	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	4	2	—
Dead in Transit	53	53	53	53	53	53	53	106	53	—
Totals	155	5450	5540	4423	5232	1383	826	2393	6694	168 Forequarters 10 Hindquarters 38 Omentums 4 Flanks

# FRESH MEAT CONDEMNED — SHEEP.

Diseases.	Carcasses	Heads	Lungs	Hearts	Livers	Stomachs	Spleens	Kidneys	In- testines	Sundries
Muelleriasis ...	—	—	7592	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pleurisy and Pneumonia	—	—	324	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pericarditis ...	—	1	311	19	679	—	1	—	—	—
Hydatid Cysts...	—	—	—	—	1107	—	—	—	—	—
Fascioliasis ...	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Bact. Necrosis	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Peritonitis ...	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Pyæmia ...	—	3	4	2	5	—	—	—	—	1 Forequarter
Empyæma ...	—	—	4	4	4	—	—	2	—	6 Forequarters
Bruising	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5 Forequarters
Fractures	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1 Forequarter
Actinomycosis	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ostitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1 Shin
Jaundice	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	—
Decomposition	2	3	2	2	2	—	2	4	—	—
Gangrene	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	—
Ematation	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	14	7	—
Tuberculosis ...	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1 Forequarter
Arthritis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1 Hindquarter
...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Died in Lairage	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	6	3	—
Died in Transit	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	10	5	—
Totals ...	19	25	8255	47	1816	17	20	40	17	14 Forequarters 10 Hindquarters 1 Shin

## FRESH MEAT CONDEMNED — CALVES.

Diseases.	Carcasses	Heads	Lungs	Hearts	Livers	Stomachs	Spleens	Kidneys	In- testines	Sundries
Tuberculosis ...	5	5	21	19	18	5	18	11	5	2 Forequarters
Pleurisy and Pneumonia ...	1	1	4	1	1	1	1	2	1	—
Pyæmia ...	—	2	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
Icterus ...	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	—
Bruising ...	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	—
Fractures ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1 Shoulder
Died in transit ...	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	—
Totals ...	9	11	28	23	24	9	22	19	9	2 Forequarters 1 Shoulder

# FRESH MEAT CONDEMNED — CATTLE.

Diseases.	Carcases	Heads	Lungs	Hearts	Livers	Stomachs	Spleens	Kidneys	In- testines	Sundries
Tuberculosis ...	62	197	389	183	120	84	77	141	212	59 Forequarters 4 Flanks 2 Rounds 20 Tongues 1 Tongue
Actinomycosis ...	—	18	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Actinobacillosis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pleurisy and Pneumonia ...	—	—	214	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pericarditis ...	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—
Fascioliasis ...	—	—	—	—	284	—	—	—	—	—
Hydaid Cysts ...	—	—	190	1	126	—	3	1	—	—
Bacterial Necrosis ...	—	—	—	—	23	—	—	—	—	—
Cavernous Angioma ...	—	—	—	—	6	—	—	—	—	—
Peritonitis ...	—	—	—	—	31	17	10	—	5	—
Fatty Infiltration ...	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	1	—
Pyæmia ...	—	—	—	—	3	2	2	—	2	—
Bruising ...	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	4	—	1 Forequarter 3 Shoulders 2 Flanks
Gastritis ...	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—
Fevered flesh ...	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	—
Nephritis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Decomposition ...	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tympanites ...	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	—
Mastitis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	139 Udders 1 Flank
Fractures ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Oedema ...	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	4	2	—
Totals ...	68	222	799	194	600	110	96	155	224	60 Forequarters 7 Hindquarters 21 Tongues 7 Flanks 2 Rounds 3 Shins

In addition to the meat condemned as shown in the foregoing Tables for fresh-killed meat, 26 tons 16 cwts. of canned meats, frozen meat and other imported meats were condemned owing to decomposition and spoilation.

**TABLES showing percentage of Pathological Conditions** encountered during the course of Meat Inspection.

PIGS.			CATTLE.		
Tuberculosis	...	9%	Tuberculosis	...	10%
Pleurisy and Pneumonia	...	2%	Fascioliasis	...	7%
Hydronephrosis	...	2%	Pleurisy and Pneumonia	...	5%
Peritonitis	...	1%	Hydatid Cysts	...	5%
Pericarditis...	...	1%	Mastitis	...	3%
Cirrhosis	...	0.5%	Actinomycosis	...	1%
Hydatid Cysts	...	0.3%	Peritonitis	...	1%
Congestion of Lungs	...	0.2%	Bacterial Necrosis	...	0.6%
Fatty Infiltration	...	0.07%	Bruising	...	0.2%
Pyæmia	...	0.02%	Cavernous Angioma	...	0.1%
Empyæmia	...	0.006%	Pyæmia	...	0.1%
Swine Erysipelas	...	0.006%	Pericarditis...	...	0.1%
Decomposition	...	0.003%	Gastritis	...	0.05%
Cavernous Angioma	...	0.003%	Oedema	...	0.05%
Fractures	...	0.003%	Fractures	...	0.02%
Hepatitis	...	0.002%	Tympanites	...	0.02%
Paratyphoid	...	0.002%	Decomposition	...	0.02%
Endocarditis	...	0.001%	Nephritis	...	0.02%
Ascarides	...	0.001%	Fevered Flesh	...	0.02%
Enteritis	...	0.001%	Fatty Infiltration	...	0.02%
Nephritis	...	0.001%	Actinobacillosis	...	0.02%
Actinomycosis	...	0.001%			
Gangrene	...	0.001%			
Septicæmia	...	0.001%			
Dead in lairage	...	0.002%			
Dead in transit	...	0.07%			
CALVES.			SHEEP.		
Tuberculosis	...	1%	Muelleriasis	...	29%
Pleurisy and Pneumonia	...	0.1%	Fascioliasis	...	4%
Pyæmia	...	0.1%	Hydatid Cysts	...	2%
Icterus	...	0.02%	Pleurisy and Pneumonia	...	1%
Fractures	...	0.02%	Empyæmia	...	0.03%
Bruising	...	0.02%	Bruising	...	0.03%
Died in transit	...	0.02%	Emaciation...	...	0.02%
			Decomposition	...	0.02%
			Pyæmia	...	0.02%
			Pericarditis...	...	0.01%
			Fractures	...	0.007%
			Bacterial Necrosis	...	0.003%
			Peritonitis	...	0.003%
			Ostitis	...	0.003%
			Jaundice	...	0.003%
			Gangrene, Tuberculosis	...	
			and Arthritis	...	0.003%
			Dead in lairage	...	0.001%
			Dead in transit	...	0.02%

# **POST-MORTEM EXAMINATION ON ANIMALS DYING A NATURAL DEATH.**

Cause of Death.	Pigs	Sheep	Cattle	Calves	Total
Bruising ... ..	1	—	—	—	1
Empyaema ... ..	2	1	—	—	3
Enteritis ... ..	6	2	—	2	10
Fractures ... ..	1	—	—	—	1
Paratyphoid ... ..	2	—	—	—	2
Pneumonia and Pleurisy	20	4	—	2	26
Peritonitis ... ..	1	—	—	—	1
Strangulation ... ..	—	—	1	—	1
Suffocation ... ..	1	1	—	—	2
Swine Erysipelas ... ..	1	—	—	—	1
Syncope ... ..	42	4	—	—	46
Toxaemia ... ..	—	4	—	—	4
Tympanites ... ..	—	2	—	—	2
Haemorrhage ... ..	1	—	—	—	1
Totals ... ..	78	18	1	4	101

## SECTION F.

### PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

#### Diphtheria.

During the year there were 57 cases giving a notification rate of 1.27 per 1,000 population, as compared with a rate of 2.46 for 1941. There was only one death from diphtheria, giving a mortality rate of 0.02 per 1,000 population. This compares favourably with rates of 0.05 for England and Wales, and 0.04 for 148 towns of comparable size with Brierley Hill.

#### Immunisation.

The campaign has been vigorously pursued during the year. The Medical Officer of Health visits all school departments in the area at intervals, while children under five are dealt with at the County Council Infant Welfare Centres.

During the year a total of 2,333 children under 15 years of age was immunised. The following Table shows the position at the beginning and end of the year.

	At 31st December, 1941		At 31st December, 1942	
	Under 5 years	5 to 15 years	Under 5 years	5 to 15 years
Estimated Population of Children ...	3672	8410	3614	7364
Estimated percentage of Child population who had received complete course of immunisation	18.16	41.2	37.7	67.9

It will be seen that the proportion of young children protected against this deadly disease is still very unsatisfactory. A large number of parents will apparently not take the trouble to give their children the advantage of protection. A common excuse is that the father had a sore arm after an inoculation while on military service.

A great deal of health education is still needed before parents will come to regard diphtheria prophylaxis as a routine measure in the rearing of every child. I should like to take this opportunity of thanking the teachers and the health visitors for the very great amount of work which they have cheerfully done in this matter.



The school population is now (June, 1943) very well protected, but there remains about half of the children under 5 years to be done. If we all pull our full weight the thing can be done. Let us do all we can to hasten the day when diphtheria will be just an ugly memory.

### **Scarlet Fever.**

60 cases were notified during the year, giving a rate of 1.33 per 1,000 of the population.

### **Erysipelas.**

23 cases were notified during the year, giving a rate of 0.51.

### **Pneumonia.**

38 cases were notified, giving a rate of 0.78.

### **Puerperal Pyrexia.**

10 cases were notified, giving a rate per 1,000 births of 11.32.

### **Ophthalmia Neonatorum.**

6 cases were notified, giving a rate of 0.13.

### **Whooping Cough.**

141 cases were notified, giving a rate of 3.14.

### **Measles.**

78 cases were notified, giving a rate of 1.71.

### **Cerebro-Spinal Fever.**

6 cases were notified, giving a rate of 0.13.

### **Scabies.**

This disease has continued to merit a good deal of attention during the year. The nocturnal irritation and consequent lack of sleep are bound to have an effect on the efficiency of the victims, and this is particularly undesirable in the present circumstances. Far too many people adopt a fatalistic attitude to this disease, and make no real attempt to get the necessary treatment.

The special clinic continued to function during the year. 107 patients were treated, and made 551 attendances. 70 were known to be cured. 111 sessions were held.



**Tuberculosis.**

The following Table gives particulars :

	MALES		FEMALES		Total
	Pul-monary	Non-Pul-monary	Pul-monary	Non-Pul-monary	
Number on Register, 1st January, 1942 ...	142	55	145	48	390
New Notifications, 1942 ...	26	2	17	3	48
Cases brought to notice otherwise than by formal notification (inward transfers, un-notified cases from Deaths Returns) ...	2	1	2	—	5
Number on Register, 31st December, 1942 ...	152	57	162	49	410

Total deaths from Tuberculosis : 37. Respiratory : 30 ; Non-respiratory : 7.

**Cancer.**

There were 69 deaths from Cancer, giving a rate of 1.53 per 1,000 of the population.

# REPORT

*of the*

## CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR.

I present herewith Report for 1942 which has again been condensed.

Owing to war conditions the repair of houses where nuisances exist was again difficult owing to shortage of labour and materials and the position became likely to become worse, due, in some instances, to owners taking advantage of the position. The matter was considered by the Public Health Committee who recommended the Council to call the attention of the Ministry of Health to the serious position that was likely to arise and asking that labour and materials should be made available.

Total number of Inspections made during the year were :—

Inspections	Re-inspections	
8,668	4,323	
Preliminary Notices served during the year...	...	292
Statutory Notices served during the year ...	...	369

### Complaints.

394 complaints were recorded against 381 for 1941, 259 related to stoppages in drain pipes. The complaints relating to drain stoppages were dealt with immediately by the department, a workman being sent to the property to relieve the nuisance.

135 of the complaints related to housing conditions, etc., all of which were investigated and where necessary action taken.

### Infectious Disease Prevention.

255 visits were made to cases of Infectious Disease and 139 houses and 6 library books were disinfected.

## Disinfestation.

During the year the following number of houses have been sprayed with insecticide :—

50 Council houses.

18 other houses.

## Housing.

Post-war housing in this area will require serious consideration as there are large numbers of houses which are sub-standard in addition to the large number of still unfit houses remaining. Drastic action will be required if the area is to be dealt with in a proper manner.

During the year the Estates Committee agreed that, as far as possible, only people living under insanitary conditions, or suffering from Tuberculosis or who were overcrowded, should be allocated Council houses. Many recommendations were made through this Department and five families were re-housed.

In my opinion the time has arisen when no one should be allocated a Council house without they actually are living under bad conditions.

The whole of the Council houses have been inspected during the year, particular attention being paid to tenants who were dirty and untidy. A report was submitted to the Estates Committee, as follows :—

Number of Council houses	...	...	...	3,867
Dirty and untidy tenants	...	...	...	475
Overcrowded houses	...	...	...	74
Houses with two families or more	...	...	...	755
3 bedroom houses with two or less persons occupying				169
4 bedroom houses with three or less persons occupying				5

As the result of this report the Estates Committee have agreed that where persons would voluntarily agree, exchange of houses should be made, but I am of the opinion that where a subsidised three or four bedroomed house is occupied by two persons or less, that they should be requested to take a smaller house, thereby allowing the larger house to be used to capacity.

## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

During the year 2,684 pigs were examined at the two bacon factories still remaining under my supervision, and this total represents the whole of the animals slaughtered on the premises. 10% of these

were found to be affected with Tuberculosis. 3 carcasses were condemned and the number in which some part or organ was affected was 268. Two cases affected with other diseases were wholly condemned and the number in which some part or organ was affected was 95.

Examination of animals at the Government slaughterhouse is referred to in the Medical Officer of Health's report.

685 pigs were slaughtered on private premises, against 351 for 1941. All were examined and one pig, weighing 200 lbs., was found to be affected with generalised Tuberculosis and was consequently condemned.

In addition to the periodical inspection of all food shops in the area, including the public market, numerous additional visits have had to be made by the District Inspectors for the condemnation of quantities of rationed goods to enable the retailers to replace stocks.

The following is a list of food stuffs condemned at these various shops, but account must also be taken of hundreds of items actually examined but not found unfit for food :—

87 lbs. Cheese.	2½ lbs. Syrup.
721 Eggs.	16 jars Pickles.
24 lbs. Sugar.	34 jars Jam.
147 lbs. Bacon.	1 tin Eggs.
24 lbs. Rice.	74 tins Soup.
4 lbs. Butter and Margarine.	68 tins Fish.
234 lbs. Sausage.	261 tins Fruit.
66 lbs. Fish (various).	334 tins Meat.
18 lbs. Rolled Oats.	429 tins Vegetables.
28 lbs. Flour	647 tins Milk.
1 lb. Sago.	

As far as possible the whole of these goods were utilised, either for fat rendering or for feeding of animals, so that, in fact, practically nothing was actually wasted.

The total weight of meat and foot condemned (excluding tinned goods) was 2 tons 17 cwts. 3 qrs. 10½ lbs.

During the year improvements took place in the collection and dispersal of eggs and it was only found necessary to condemn 721 out of about 2,500 examined.

Notices under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, were served on three occupiers of food preparing premises to show reason why registration should not be cancelled. Registration was cancelled in each case.



## FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.

No.	Article	Formal	Informal	Remarks
65	Milk ... ..	57	8	Genuine.
1	Do. ... ..	1	—	6.4% added water. Fine 35/- ; 5 guineas costs.
1	Do. ... ..	1	—	6.3% deficient in fat. Warning letter.
1	Do. ... ..	1	—	9% deficient in fat. Warning letter.
1	Do. ... ..	1	—	9.3% deficient in fat. Warning letter.
1	Do. ... ..	1	—	4.6% deficient in fat. Warning letter.
APPEALS TO COW.				
1	Milk ... ..	1	—	1.5% deficient in solids, not fat. 2% deficient in fat.
MISCELLANEOUS				
41	Miscellaneous Food-stuffs ... ..	20	21	Genuine.
1	Unrationed cooking fat	—	1	Not cooking fat. Warning letter.
1	Lemon Cordial ... ..	—	1	No Vitamin "C." Warning letter.
1	Lemon Substitute ... ..	—	1	Label offence. Vitamin "C." Warning letter.
1	Lemon Reblend ... ..	—	1	No Vitamin "C." Warning letter.
1	Air Raid Tonic ... ..	1	—	No percentage ingredients. Pharmacy and Medicines Act, 1941.
1	Lemon Flavour Cordial	1	—	No action taken. Case dismissed on similar sample in other authority.
1	Egg Powder ... ..	1	—	No egg. Fine £10; £5/15/6 costs.

From the list of samples taken during the year it will be seen that there was a big reduction in the number of samples showing a deficiency of fat in comparison with last year, there being 12 last year and 5 this, notwithstanding the fact that many more samples of milk were taken.

One sample of milk showed that it was adulterated with 6.4% added water. The retailer producer was summoned and fined 35/- and ordered to pay 5 guineas costs.

One sample of egg powder was found to contain no egg whatever. The wholesaler was summoned and fined £10 and ordered to pay £5 15s. 6d. costs.

### Milk and Dairies.

Much time and energy has been given to the very important question of production and distribution of clean milk. Many cases of souring of milk were notified to me and numerous enquiries and suggestions were made to remedy this. Most of the trouble was traced to bulk supplies coming to milk depots from other areas and in some instances necessitating a delay of two or three days before delivery to the consumer. During the year the re-distribution of milk supplies was made, and for some time this caused confusion and the receiving here of many complaints mainly due to customers wanting to keep their old retailer.

During the year 55 samples of milk were submitted for bacteriological examination, and set out below is a table showing analysis of results :

Plate counts in 1 c.c.				B. Coli content in 1 c.c.			
Under 30,000	30,000 to 200,000	200,000 to 500,000	Over 500,000	Nil	1/10th	1/100th	1/1000th
10	25	10	10	23	10	15	7

5 of the samples with a count of over 500,000 were samples taken from bulk supplies coming into the area from depots and one was a sample of school milk.

In addition 16 samples of milk, produced in this area, were submitted for examination and guinea pig inoculation for the detection of tuberculosis. All samples gave a negative result, and in view of the recent comments in the national press on this subject, these results are gratifying.

### Trade Refuse.

514 bins of trade refuse were removed, for which a charge was made. Also 690 vehicle loads, an income of £37 18s. 0d. being received.

## Collection and Disposal of House Refuse.

During the year the fortnightly collection of house refuse was continued throughout the district, and this proved sufficient to meet the requirements of the householders, very few complaints being received. The whole of the refuse collected was deposited at the Wallows Road tip and controlled.

## SALVAGE.

A fortnightly collection of all waste materials, house to house, is made throughout the area, and this system appears to give the best results for the district. It also has the advantage that the women collectors are able to report all premises where salvage is not being separated, thus enabling a check to be made.

On the whole the results have been reasonably satisfactory, in view of the fact that there is not a very large shopping area and also the majority of the industries are heavy : iron, steel and mining.

The total amount of materials salvaged and returned to industry was 1,263 tons, equal to 63 lbs. per head of the population, against 1,066 tons for 1941. Income being £5,201 against £3,353, an increase of £1,848.

There was a surplus on salvage amounting to £1,522. This result was very materially assisted by procuring the best markets for materials not subject to price control.

The following are the weights of the materials salvaged during the twelve months, 1st April, 1942, to 31st March, 1943 :—

	Tons
Paper ... ..	365
Tins ... ..	216
Metal ... ..	92
Broken Glass ... ..	111½
Condemned Meat ... ..	2½
Household Bones ... ..	13½
Textiles ... ..	36
Bottles ... ..	38½
Jars ... ..	40½
Kitchen Waste ... ..	332
Rubber ... ..	16
	<hr/>
	1,263

## EXPENDITURE.

Salaries and Wages ...	...	£ 1,670
Superannuation ...	...	68
Repairs and Maintenance of Buildings ...	...	51
Haulage ...	...	972
Purchase Fordson Van ...	...	335
Materials and other expenses ...	...	345
Equipment purchased ...	...	238
Surplus ...	...	1,522
		<hr/>
		£5,201
		<hr/>

## INCOME.

Waste Paper ...	...	£ 2,448
Textiles ...	...	624
Bottles, Broken Glass, etc. ...	...	780
Scrap Metal ...	...	283
Tins ...	...	439
Bones ...	...	54
Kitchen Waste ...	...	540
Batteries and Tyres ...	...	33
		<hr/>
		£5,201
		<hr/>

H. J. PARKER,

*Chief Sanitary Inspector and  
Cleansing Superintendent.*









